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NOTE FOR: The Director
FROM: Dave Gries
SUBJECT: Senate Select Subcommittee on Investigations Hearings
on Defectors

Previously we discussed Senator Nunn's request for your testimony at a public hearing of his Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. Senator Nunn wants you to discuss unclassified aspects of the handling of refugees and also of the handling of defectors who do not qualify for Intelligence Community support. He is interested in hearing your testimony because of your current position at CIA and your previous position at the FBI.

We have labored unsuccessfully for two months to convince Subcommittee staff that CIA is only a bystander and not a direct participant in the affairs of those organizations--the Tolstoy Foundation, the Jamestown Foundation, to name the two best known--committed to the support and resettlement of refugees and defectors. These lengthy negotiations yielded a more satisfactory definition of what the Subcommittee would like you to talk about, but also produced a second invitation from Senator Nunn for your public testimony. The hearing will probably take place in late September or October.

Given Senator Nunn's interest, I believe you should accept, even though it is highly unusual for a Director of Central Intelligence to testify in public. Director Casey did so only once and then only to speak in support of an Intelligence Museum. Our records are not perfect for other directors, but there is no known instance of additional public testimony except during the investigations of the mid-1970s. Since previous directors have refused in anticipation of being asked classified questions, Senator Nunn's invitation places us in uncharted waters, the subject being unclassified. Unless you advise to the contrary, we will begin shaping testimony.

Nunn Hearing on Defectors: You will recall that Senator Nunn has written asking you to testify in open session in mid-September on defector matters before his Governmental Affairs subcommittee. Although we passed the word that you will be out of the country at that time, we were advised by staff this week that Senator Nunn remains eager for you to appear at a later date--probably some time in October. We will keep you posted on developments.

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